

Dental Amalgam Recovery Program Fact Sheet

Information for Dentists



*“Installation of ISO 11143
certified amalgam separators
are required on or before
January 1, 2011.”*

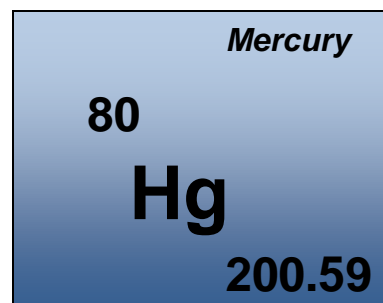
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*Submittal of Self-
certification of Amalgam
Separator Installation form
is due on or before January
31, 2011.”*

What are the requirements, and why?

Dental practices that remove and/or replace amalgam fillings must use approved amalgam management practices and install an amalgam separator. Such a separator is in addition to chair-side traps and vacuum filters that may already exist. The separator device must be ISO certified to remove at least 95% of amalgam particles.



San Francisco Bay is considered impaired due to high levels of mercury in fish, water and sediment. Because of the concerns with mercury in San Francisco Bay, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Order No. R2-2007-0077 – Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Discharges of Mercury to San Francisco Bay. The purpose of this Order is to implement San Francisco Bay Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) waste load allocations. The Order also stipulates implementation of a program to address dental mercury reduction.

The City of Hayward's Dental Amalgam Recovery Program Ordinance (Ordinance No. 10-3) was approved by the City Council on January 26, 2010, and became effective on February 25, 2010. The Ordinance has specific requirements for Dental facilities that remove or replace amalgam fillings, including the installation of an approved amalgam separator by January 1, 2011.



What does a dental facility need to do to comply?

STEP 1 – Comply with required “best management practices” described on page 2.

STEP 2 – Submit a Self-certification of Amalgam Management Requirements form issued by the City on or before June 30, 2010.

STEP 3 – Install an ISO 11143 certified amalgam separator device for each dental vacuum suction system by January 1, 2011.

STEP 4 – Submit a Self-certification of Amalgam Separator Installation form issued by the City within 30 days of installation, by January 31, 2011.

Exempted Facilities

A facility is exempt from this requirement if amalgam fillings are removed or placed 3 or fewer days per year and the facility serves the following primary function:

- Orthodontics
- Periodontics
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Radiology
- Oral pathology or oral medicine
- Endodontics
- Prosthodontics

More information is available at City of Hayward website:
www.hayward-ca.gov.

Questions?

Call Water Pollution Source Control at (510) 881-7900.

“Submittal of Self-certification of Amalgam Management Requirements form is due on or before June 30, 2010.”

Best Management Practices (BMPs)



It is more effective to contain and dispose of mercury waste at the source than to develop expensive treatment technologies for the wastewater. In order to contain mercury at the source, all dental facilities in Hayward are required to implement certain BMPs, which include, but are not limited to:

- Do not rinse chairside traps, vacuum screens, or amalgam separator equipment in a sink or other sanitary sewer connection.
- Train staff to properly handle and dispose of amalgam materials and fixer-containing solutions; training records must be available for inspection.
- Do not use bulk liquid mercury; use only pre-capsulated dental amalgam.
- Store amalgam waste in air tight containers.
- Properly discard amalgam waste. Recycling is the preferred method for discarding amalgam waste.

For a full list of BMPs, please check out the **Best Management Practices for Dental Offices** document. The document is available at our website:

www.hayward-ca.gov

Approved Amalgam Separators

All non-exempt dental facilities are required to install amalgam separators because it is the best way to remove mercury. Amalgam separators employ filtration, settlement, or ion exchange to remove amalgam and its metal constituents from the office vacuum system before it discharges to the sanitary sewer. A list of ISO 11143 certified approved amalgam separators can be obtained from the following websites:

www.hayward-ca.gov

www.baywise.org



Self-Certification forms

The forms can be downloaded from the City of Hayward website. Please submit completed forms to:

**City of Hayward
Water Pollution Source Control
24499 Soto Road
Hayward, CA 94544-1430**